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**ORGANIZATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO
EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004 OUAGADOUGOU
DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION ON EMPLOYMENT
PROMOTION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
(Item proposed by Burkina Faso)**

**ORGANIZATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE
AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE AFRICAN UNION TO EVALUATE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2004 OUAGADOUGOU DECLARATION
AND PLAN OF ACTION ON EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
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I. BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

1. Burkina Faso hosted, on the 08 and 09 September 2004 in Ouagadougou, an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union on Employment and Poverty Alleviation. The Summit, which was born from the vision of the African Union to make Africa a peaceful, stable and prosperous continent in the spirit of the Constitutive Act, was aimed at:

- i) strengthening NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) which aims to ensure sustainable human development on the continent;
- ii) reaffirming the commitment of Heads of State to place employment at the heart of the strategy to fight poverty in the context of globalization and integration as well as technological, economic, political and social changes;
- iii) developing an operational action plan with specific programs to create productive employments;
- iv) establishing a mechanism for appropriate and effective follow-up of conclusions and decisions of the Summit.

2. Organized around the theme "Strategies for the creation/promotion of employment and sustainable development", the Ouagadougou Summit addressed itself to major challenges of unemployment, underemployment and poverty faced by African countries. The holding of this Summit came on the heels of Decision **(AHG/Dec.166 (XXX VII))** of the 37th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Governments to convene a ministerial meeting on the promotion of employment and poverty alleviation in Africa. At the meeting held in April 2002 in Ouagadougou on the occasion of the 25th session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission (CTAS), a Draft Declaration and Draft Plan of Action on Employment Promotion and Poverty Alleviation was considered which was adopted by a special session on the side-lines of the International Labour Conference in Geneva in June 2002.

3. Following this preparatory work, the Second Conference of Heads of State and Governments of the African Union held in Maputo in July 2003, took the decision to convene an Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in 2004 and accepted the offer of President Blaise COMPAORE of Burkina Faso to host this Extraordinary Summit in Ouagadougou in 2004.

4. The Summit recognized the pivotal role of employment in determining levels of inequality and poverty and thus sought to increase the standard of living of the people by addressing inequalities and unemployment. Several options were

considered at the macro and micro-economic levels, including the adoption of strategies and actions to improve standards of living of the population. The Summit also recognized that sustainable economic growth, technological progress, employment, regional integration, social development through health and education, good governance, including sound macroeconomic policies are, among other key factors, essential for poverty reduction.

5. Thus, the Summit took into account the potential of the very large number of youths who must be prepared for productive employments to ensure the future of the continent. In this regard, the Summit adopted a Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa (**EXT/ASSEMBLEE/UA/3 (III)**), an Action Plan for promoting employment and reducing poverty (**EXT/ASSEMBLEE/UA/4 (III)**) and established a monitoring mechanism for the implementation, follow-up and evaluation (**EXT/ASSEMBLEE/UA/5 (III)**) of commitments made in Ouagadougou. The monitoring mechanism is based on the preparation of a biennial report and a full report every five years.

6. During the 9th Ordinary Session of the AU Labour and Social Affairs Commission held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 08 and 09 April, 2013, the Ministerial Meeting of the Labour and Social Affairs Commission decided to hold in March 2014, a special ministerial meeting and recommended the holding in September 2014, of an Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government for stock-taking on the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action, ten (10) years after the Ouagadougou summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation.

7. Namibia was chosen to host the special ministerial meeting in March 2014 and Burkina Faso to host, in September 2014, the Extraordinary Summit. This decision, which was overwhelmingly recommended and supported by all participants at the meeting and by the International Labour Office (ILO), is justified by the desire of the initiators, to hold in Ouagadougou an evaluation meeting of the 2004 Ouagadougou commitments, ten years after the historic meeting in Burkina Faso on employment and poverty alleviation.

II. OBJECTIVES

1. General Objective

8. The overall objective of the Summit is to make a comprehensive review of the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action in order to identify progress and constraints in meeting challenges.

2. Specific Objectives

9. The specific objectives of the summit are as follows:

- i) the evaluation and follow-up of progress in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa;
- ii) the consideration, revision and proposal of new policies or programs on employment and poverty alleviation;

- iii) the adoption of a roadmap for the decade 2014-2024;
- iv) a common position of African leaders as part of the agenda for the post 2015 development.

III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

10. As expected outcomes, the Summit should:

- i) make a complete assessment of the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action;
- ii) identify progress and constraints in the implementation of the Declaration and Plan of Action;
- iii) assess and monitor progress in the implementation of the Declaration and Action Plan on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa;
- iv) consider, revise and propose new policies or programs on employment and poverty reduction;
- v) adopt a roadmap for the decade from 2014 to 2024 on employment and the eradication of poverty;
- vi) adopt a common position in the context of the agenda for the post 2015 development.

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Organization of an extraordinary summit of heads of state and governments of the African union to evaluate the implementation of the 2004 Ouagadougou declaration and plan of action on employment promotion and poverty alleviation (Item proposed by Burkina Faso)

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